

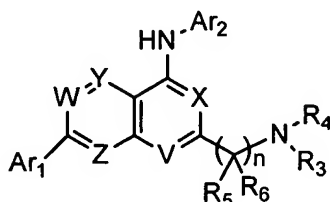
Amendments To The Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

Claims 1-40 (canceled).

Claim 41 (original): A compound of the formula:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable form thereof, wherein:

V, X, W, Y and Z are each independently N or CR₁, with the proviso that at least one of V and X is N;

R₁ is independently selected at each occurrence from hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, cyano, amino, C₁-C₆alkyl, haloC₁-C₆alkyl, C₁-C₆alkoxy, haloC₁-C₆alkoxy, C₁-C₄alkoxycarbonyl and mono- and di-(C₁-C₆alkyl)amino;

R₃ and R₄ are:

(i) each independently selected from:

(a) hydrogen;

(b) C₁-C₈alkyl, C₂-C₈alkenyl, C₂-C₈alkynyl, C₃-C₈alkanone, C₂-C₈alkanoyl, C₂-C₈alkyl ether, (C₆-C₁₀aryl)C₀-C₈alkyl, (5- to 10-membered heterocycle)C₀-C₈alkyl and - (SO₂)C₁-C₈alkyl, each of which is substituted with from 0 to 4 substituents independently chosen from R_b; and

(c) groups that are taken together with an R₅ or R₆ to form a 4- to 10-membered heterocycle that is substituted with from 0 to 4 substituents independently chosen from R_b; or

(ii) taken together to form a 4- to 10-membered heterocycle that is substituted with from 0 to 4 substituents independently chosen from R_b ;

R_5 and R_6 are, independently at each occurrence:

(i) each independently hydrogen, C_1 - C_8 alkyl substituted with from 0 to 2 substituents independently chosen from R_b , or taken together with R_3 or R_4 to form a 4- to 10-membered heterocyclic group that is substituted with from 0 to 4 substituents independently chosen from R_b ;

(ii) taken together to form a keto group; or

(iii) taken together to form a 3- to 7-membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring that is substituted with from 0 to 4 substituents independently chosen from R_b ;

n is 1, 2 or 3;

Ar_1 and Ar_2 are independently selected from 6- to 10-membered aryl groups and 5- to 10-membered heterocycles, each of which is substituted with from 0 to 3 substituents independently selected from groups of the formula LR_a ;

L is independently selected at each occurrence from a bond, O, $S(O)_m$, $C(=O)$, $OC(=O)$, $C(=O)O$, $O-C(=O)O$, $N(R_x)$, $C(=O)N(R_x)$, $N(R_x)C(=O)$, $N(R_x)S(O)_m$, $S(O)_mN(R_x)$ and $N[S(O)_mR_x]S(O)_m$; wherein m is independently selected at each occurrence from 0, 1 and 2; and R_x is independently selected at each occurrence from hydrogen and C_1 - C_8 alkyl;

R_a is independently selected at each occurrence from: (i) hydrogen, halogen, cyano and nitro; and (ii) C_1 - C_8 alkyl, C_2 - C_8 alkenyl, C_2 - C_8 alkynyl, C_2 - C_8 alkyl ether, (4- to 10-membered heterocycle) C_0 - C_8 alkyl and mono- and di- $(C_1$ - C_8 alkyl)amino, each of which is substituted with from 0 to 4 substituents independently selected from hydroxy, halogen, amino, cyano, nitro, oxo, $-COOH$, C_1 - C_4 alkyl, C_1 - C_4 alkoxy, halo C_1 - C_4 alkyl, halo C_1 - C_4 alkoxy, hydroxy C_1 - C_4 alkyl, and mono- and di- $(C_1$ - C_6 alkyl)amino; and

R_b is independently chosen at each occurrence from:

(i) hydroxy, halogen, amino, aminocarbonyl, cyano, nitro, oxo and $-COOH$; and

(ii) C_1 - C_8 alkyl, C_1 - C_8 haloalkyl, C_1 - C_8 alkoxy, C_1 - C_8 haloalkoxy, C_1 - C_8 alkanoyl, C_2 - C_8 alkoxycarbonyl, C_2 - C_8 alkanoyloxy, C_1 - C_8 alkylthio, C_2 - C_8 alkyl ether, phenyl C_0 - C_8 alkyl, phenyl C_0 - C_8 alkoxy, mono- and di- $(C_1$ - C_6 alkyl)amino C_0 - C_6 alkyl, $-(SO_2)C_1$ -

C₈alkyl and (4- to 7-membered heterocycle)(C₀-C₈alkyl); each of which is substituted with from 0 to 3 substituents independently chosen from hydroxy, halogen, amino, cyano, C₁-C₄alkyl, C₁-C₄alkoxy, hydroxyC₁-C₄alkyl, haloC₁-C₄alkyl, and mono- and di-(C₁-C₄alkyl)amino.

Claim 42 (currently amended): A compound or pharmaceutically acceptable form thereof according to claim 41, wherein V and X are N.

Claim 43 (currently amended): A compound or pharmaceutically acceptable form thereof according to claim 41, wherein V is N and X is CH.

Claim 44 (currently amended): A compound or pharmaceutically acceptable form thereof according to claim 41, wherein X is N and V is CH₂.

Claim 45 (currently amended): A compound or pharmaceutically acceptable form thereof according to ~~any one of claims 41-44~~ claim 41, wherein Y is N and W and Z are each CH.

Claim 46 (currently amended): A compound or pharmaceutically acceptable form thereof according to ~~any one of claims 41-44~~ claim 41, wherein Z is N and W and Y are each CH.

Claim 47 (currently amended): A compound or pharmaceutically acceptable form thereof according to ~~any one of claims 41-44~~ claim 41, wherein W, Y and Z are each CH.

Claim 48 (currently amended): A compound or pharmaceutically acceptable form thereof according to claim 41, wherein Ar₁ and Ar₂ are independently selected from phenyl and 6-membered aromatic heterocycles, each of which is substituted with 0, 1 or 2 substituents.

Claim 49 (currently amended): A compound or pharmaceutically acceptable form thereof according to claim 48, wherein:

Ar₁ is phenyl or pyridyl, each of which is substituted with from 0 to 2 substituents independently selected from halogen, hydroxy, cyano, amino, nitro, mono- and di-(C₁-C₆alkyl)amino, C₁-C₆alkyl, haloC₁-C₆alkyl, C₁-C₆alkoxy and haloC₁-C₆alkoxy; and

Ar₂ is phenyl or pyridyl, each of which is substituted with from 0 to 2 substituents independently selected from halogen, hydroxy, cyano, amino, nitro, mono- and di-(C₁-C₆alkyl)amino, C₁-C₆alkyl, haloC₁-C₆alkyl, cyanoC₁-C₆alkyl, C₁-C₆alkoxy, haloC₁-C₆alkoxy, C₂-C₆alkyl ether, C₁-C₆alkanoyl, -(SO₂)R_d, -N(R_x)S(O)_mR_d, and -N[S(O)_mR_x]S(O)_mR_d; wherein m is 1 or 2, R_x is hydrogen or C₁-C₆alkyl, and R_d is C₁-C₆alkyl, haloC₁-C₆alkyl, amino, mono- or di-(C₁-C₆alkyl)amino or a 5- to 10-membered, N-linked heterocyclic group, each of which R_d is substituted with from 0 to 2 substituents independently chosen from halogen, hydroxy, cyano, amino, nitro, mono- and di-(C₁-C₆alkyl)amino, C₁-C₄alkyl, haloC₁-C₄alkyl, C₁-C₄alkoxy and haloC₁-C₄alkoxy.

Claim 50 (currently amended): A compound or pharmaceutically acceptable form thereof according to claim 49, wherein:

Ar₁ is pyridyl, unsubstituted or substituted with halogen, cyano, C₁-C₄alkyl or haloC₁-C₄alkyl; and

Ar₂ is phenyl or pyridyl, substituted with from 0 to 2 substituents independently chosen from halogen, C₁-C₄alkyl, cyanoC₁-C₄alkyl, haloC₁-C₄alkyl, C₂-C₆alkyl ether and groups of the formula -(SO₂)R_d, wherein R_d is C₁-C₄alkyl or haloC₁-C₄alkyl.

Claim 51 (currently amended): A compound or pharmaceutically acceptable form thereof according to claim 49, wherein:

Ar₁ is phenyl, unsubstituted or substituted with halogen, cyano, C₁-C₄alkyl or haloC₁-C₄alkyl; and

Ar₂ is phenyl or pyridyl, substituted with from 0 to 2 substituents independently chosen from halogen, C₁-C₄alkyl, cyanoC₁-C₄alkyl, haloC₁-C₄alkyl, C₂-C₆alkyl ether and groups of the formula -(SO₂)R_d, wherein R_d is C₁-C₄alkyl or haloC₁-C₄alkyl.

Claim 52 (currently amended): A compound or pharmaceutically acceptable form thereof according to claim 49, wherein:

Ar₁ is pyridin-2-yl, 3-methyl-pyridin-2-yl, 3-trifluoromethyl-pyridin-2-yl or 3-halo-pyridin-2-yl; and

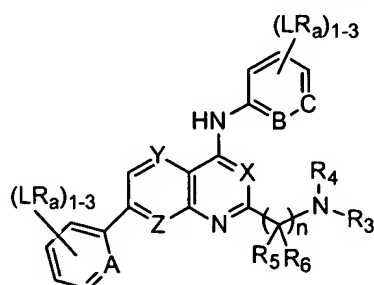
Ar₂ is phenyl, pyridin-2-yl or pyridin-3-yl, each of which is substituted at the *para*-position with halogen, cyano, methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, *t*-butyl, trifluoromethyl, 2,2,2-trifluoroethyl, 2,2,2-trifluoro-1-methyl-ethyl, methanesulfonyl, ethanesulfonyl, propanesulfonyl, propane-2-sulfonyl, trifluoromethanesulfonyl or 2,2,2-trifluoroethanesulfonyl.

Claim 53 (currently amended): A compound or pharmaceutically acceptable form thereof according to claim 49, wherein:

Ar₁ is phenyl, 2-methyl-phenyl, 2-trifluoromethyl-phenyl or 2-halo-phenyl; and

Ar₂ is phenyl, pyridin-2-yl or pyridin-3-yl, each of which is substituted at the *para*-position with halogen, cyano, methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, *t*-butyl, trifluoromethyl, 2,2,2-trifluoroethyl, 2,2,2-trifluoro-1-methyl-ethyl, methanesulfonyl, ethanesulfonyl, propanesulfonyl, propane-2-sulfonyl, trifluoromethanesulfonyl or 2,2,2-trifluoroethanesulfonyl.

Claim 54 (currently amended): A compound or pharmaceutically acceptable form thereof according to ~~claim 30~~ claim 41, having the formula:



wherein A, B, C, Y and Z are each independently CH or N, and wherein each "(LR_a)₁₋₃" represents from 1 to 3 substituents independently chosen from groups of the formula LR_a.

Claim 55 (currently amended): A compound or pharmaceutically acceptable form thereof according to claim 41 ~~or 54~~, wherein R₃ and R₄ are independently selected from (i) hydrogen and (ii) C₁-C₈alkyl, C₂-C₈alkenyl, C₂-C₈alkynyl, C₃-C₈alkanone, C₁-C₈alkanoyl, C₂-

C₈alkyl ether, (C₆-C₁₀aryl)C₀-C₈alkyl, (5- to 10-membered heterocycle)C₀-C₈alkyl and -(SO₂)C₁-C₈alkyl, each of which is substituted with from 0 to 4 substituents independently chosen from R₆.

Claim 56 (currently amended): A compound or pharmaceutically acceptable form thereof according to claim 55, wherein R₃ and R₄ are independently selected from (i) hydrogen and (ii) C₁-C₈alkyl, C₂-C₈alkenyl, phenylC₀-C₄alkyl, indanylC₀-C₄alkyl, (5- to 6-membered heteroaryl)C₀-C₄alkyl and (5- to 7-membered heterocycloalkyl)C₀-C₄alkyl, each of which is substituted with from 0 to 4 substituents independently selected from hydroxy, halogen, amino, C₁-C₆alkyl, haloC₁-C₆alkyl, C₁-C₆alkoxy and haloC₁-C₆alkoxy.

Claim 57 (currently amended): A compound or pharmaceutically acceptable form thereof according to claim 56, wherein R₃ and R₄ are independently selected from hydrogen, C₁-C₆alkyl, C₂-C₆alkenyl, (5- to 7-membered heterocycle)C₀-C₄alkyl, C₂-C₆alkyl ether, indanyl, benzyl, 1-phenyl-ethyl, 1-phenyl-propyl and 2-phenyl-ethyl, each of which is substituted with from 0 to 3 substituents independently selected from hydroxy, halogen and C₁-C₄alkyl, with the proviso that at least one of R₃ and R₄ is not hydrogen.

Claim 58 (currently amended): A compound or pharmaceutically acceptable form thereof according to claim 41 ~~or claim 54~~, wherein one of R₃ or R₄ is taken together with an R₅ or R₆ to form a 4- to 10-membered heterocyclic group that is substituted with from 0 to 4 substituents independently selected from hydroxy, halogen, C₁-C₄alkyl, haloC₁-C₄alkyl, C₁-C₄alkoxy, haloC₁-C₄alkoxy, C₁-C₄alkanoyl, C₁-C₄alkoxycarbonyl, aminocarbonyl and (4- to 10-membered heterocycle)C₀-C₈alkyl.

Claim 59 (currently amended): A compound or pharmaceutically acceptable form thereof according to claim 41 ~~or claim 54~~, wherein R₃ and R₄ are taken together to form a 4- to 10-membered heterocycle that is substituted with from 0 to 4 substituents independently selected from hydroxy, halogen, aminocarbonyl, C₁-C₄alkyl, hydroxyC₁-C₄alkyl, haloC₁-C₄alkyl, C₁-C₄alkoxy, haloC₁-C₄alkoxy, C₁-C₄alkanoyl, C₂-C₄alkoxycarbonyl, aminocarbonyl and (4- to 7-membered heterocycle)C₀-C₈alkyl.

Claim 60 (currently amended): A compound or pharmaceutically acceptable form thereof according to claim 59, wherein the 4- to 10-membered heterocycle is morpholinyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl, pyrrolidinyl or thiomorpholinyl.

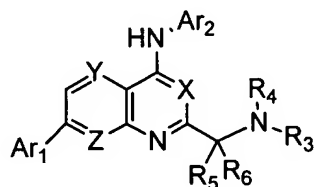
Claim 61 (currently amended): A compound or pharmaceutically acceptable form thereof according to claim 41 ~~or claim 54~~, wherein each R₅ and R₆ is independently selected from hydrogen and C₁-C₄alkyl.

Claim 62 (currently amended): A compound or pharmaceutically acceptable form thereof according to claim 61, wherein each R₅ and R₆ is hydrogen.

Claim 63 (currently amended): A compound or pharmaceutically acceptable form thereof according to claim 41 ~~or claim 54~~, wherein one R₅ and one R₆ attached to the same carbon atom are taken together to form a keto group.

Claim 64 (currently amended): A compound or pharmaceutically acceptable form thereof according to claim 41 ~~or claim 54~~, wherein n is 1.

Claim 65 (currently amended): A compound or pharmaceutically acceptable form thereof according to ~~claim 30~~ claim 41, having the formula:



wherein:

Ar₁ is phenyl or pyridyl, unsubstituted or substituted with halogen, cyano, C₁-C₄alkyl or haloC₁-C₄alkyl;

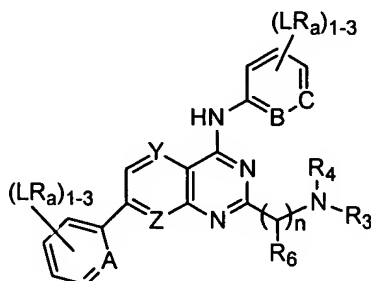
Ar₂ is phenyl or pyridyl, unsubstituted or substituted with C₁-C₄alkyl, cyanoC₁-C₄alkyl, haloC₁-C₄alkyl, C₂-C₆alkyl ether or a group of the formula -(SO₂)R_d, wherein R_d is C₁-C₄alkyl or haloC₁-C₄alkyl;

R₃ and R₄ are:

(a) independently selected from:

- (i) hydrogen; and
 - (ii) C₁-C₆alkyl, C₂-C₆alkenyl, (5- to 7-membered heterocycle)C₀-C₄alkyl, C₂-C₆alkyl ether, indanyl, benzyl, 1-phenyl-ethyl, 1-phenyl-propyl and 2-phenyl-ethyl, each of which is substituted with from 0 to 3 substituents independently selected from hydroxy, cyano, halogen, C₁-C₄alkyl and haloC₁-C₄alkyl; or
- (b) taken together to form a 5- to 7-membered heterocycloalkyl that is substituted with from 0 to 3 substituents independently selected from hydroxy, cyano, halogen, C₁-C₄alkyl and haloC₁-C₄alkyl; and
- R₅ and R₆ are independently selected from hydrogen and C₁-C₄alkyl.

Claim 66 (currently amended): A compound or pharmaceutically acceptable form thereof according to claim [[54]] 65, having the formula:



wherein:

A, B, C, Y and Z are each independently CH or N;

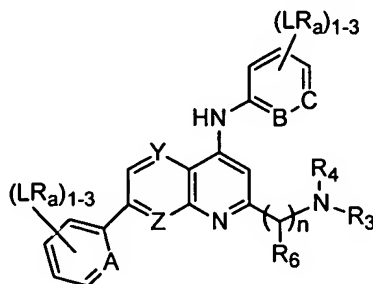
R₃ and R₄ are:

- (a) independently selected from:

- (i) hydrogen; and
 - (ii) C₁-C₆alkyl, C₂-C₆alkenyl, (5- to 7-membered heterocycle)C₀-C₄alkyl, C₂-C₆alkyl ether, indanyl, benzyl, 1-phenyl-ethyl, 1-phenyl-propyl and 2-phenyl-ethyl, each of which is substituted with from 0 to 3 substituents independently selected from hydroxy, cyano, halogen, C₁-C₄alkyl and haloC₁-C₄alkyl; or
- (b) taken together to form a 5- to 7-membered heterocycloalkyl that is substituted with from 0 to 3 substituents independently selected from hydroxy, cyano, halogen, C₁-C₄alkyl and haloC₁-C₄alkyl; and

each R_6 is independently hydrogen or methyl.

Claim 67 (currently amended): A compound or pharmaceutically acceptable form thereof according to ~~claim 54~~ claim 65, having the formula:



wherein:

A, B, C, Y and Z are each independently CH or N;

R₃ and R₄ are:

(a) independently selected from:

(i) hydrogen; and

(ii) C₁-C₆alkyl, C₂-C₆alkenyl, (5- to 7-membered heterocycle)C₀-C₄alkyl, C₂-C₆alkyl ether, indanyl, benzyl, 1-phenyl-ethyl, 1-phenyl-propyl and 2-phenyl-ethyl, each of which is substituted with from 0 to 3 substituents independently selected from hydroxy, cyano, halogen, C₁-C₄alkyl and haloC₁-C₄alkyl; or

(b) taken together to form a 5- to 7-membered heterocycloalkyl that is substituted with from 0 to 3 substituents independently selected from hydroxy, cyano, halogen, C₁-C₄alkyl and haloC₁-C₄alkyl; and

each R₆ is independently hydrogen or methyl.

Claim 68 (canceled).

Claim 69 (currently amended): A compound or pharmaceutically acceptable form thereof according to ~~any one of claims 1, 14 or 41~~, claim 41, wherein the compound has an IC₅₀ value of 100 nanomolar or less in a capsaicin receptor calcium mobilization assay.

Claim 70 (currently amended): A compound or pharmaceutically acceptable form thereof according to ~~any one of claims 1, 14 or 41~~ claim 41, wherein the compound has an IC₅₀ value of 10 nanomolar or less in a capsaicin receptor calcium mobilization assay.

Claim 71 (currently amended): A pharmaceutical composition, comprising at least one compound or pharmaceutically acceptable form thereof according to ~~any one of claims 1, 14 or 41~~ claim 41, in combination with a physiologically acceptable carrier or excipient.

Claim 72 (original): A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 71 wherein the composition is formulated as an injectible fluid, an aerosol, a cream, a gel, a pill, a capsule, a syrup or a transdermal patch.

Claims 73-87 (canceled).

Claim 88 (currently amended): A method for treating pain in a patient, comprising administering to a patient suffering from pain a capsaicin receptor modulatory amount of at least one compound or pharmaceutically acceptable form thereof according to ~~any one of claims 1, 14 or 41~~ claim 41, and thereby alleviating pain in the patient.

Claim 89 (currently amended): A method according to claim 88, wherein the compound or pharmaceutically acceptable form thereof is present in the blood of the patient at a concentration of 1 micromolar or less.

Claim 90 (currently amended): A method according to claim 89, wherein the compound or pharmaceutically acceptable form thereof is present in the blood of the patient at a concentration of 500 nanomolar or less.

Claim 91 (currently amended): A method according to claim 89, wherein the compound or pharmaceutically acceptable form thereof is present in the blood of the patient at a concentration of 100 nanomolar or less.

Claim 92 (original): A method according to claim 88, wherein the patient is suffering from neuropathic pain.

Claim 93 (original): A method according to claim 88, wherein the pain is associated with a condition selected from: postmastectomy pain syndrome, stump pain, phantom limb pain, oral neuropathic pain, toothache, postherpetic neuralgia, diabetic neuropathy, reflex sympathetic dystrophy, trigeminal neuralgia, osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, fibromyalgia, Guillain-Barre syndrome, meralgia paresthetica, burning-mouth syndrome, bilateral peripheral neuropathy, causalgia, neuritis, neuronitis, neuralgia, AIDS-related neuropathy, MS-related neuropathy, spinal cord injury-related pain, surgery-related pain, musculoskeletal pain, back pain, headache, migraine, angina, labor, hemorrhoids, dyspepsia, Charcot's pains, intestinal gas, menstruation, cancer, venom exposure, irritable bowel syndrome, inflammatory bowel disease and trauma.

Claim 94 (original): A method according to claim 88, wherein the patient is a human.

Claims 95- 101 (canceled).

Claim 102 (original): A packaged pharmaceutical preparation, comprising:

- (a) a pharmaceutical composition according to claim 71 in a container; and
- (b) instructions for using the composition to treat pain.

Claims 103-105 (canceled).